



October 15, 2025

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Delano Hunder

Director, Department of General Services

3924 Minnesota Avenue, NE

Washington, DC 20019

Chair

Historic Preservation Review Board

899 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 7100

Washington, DC 20002

Dr. Lewis D. Ferebee

Chancellor

1200 First Street, NE

Washington, DC 20002

At a properly noticed meeting on October 15, 2025, with a quorum present, Advisory Neighborhood Commission (ANC) 6B voted 9-0-0 to submit the following letter.

Dear Chancellor Ferebee, Director Hunter and Members of the Historic Preservation Review Board,

ANC 6B writes to express our strong opposition to the historic designation of the Shirley Chisholm Elementary School building. Our Commission represents the interests of residents, families, and community stakeholders who have long awaited meaningful modernization of this essential public facility. With construction planned for 2026, our community was looking forward to a transformation that would allow the school to fully serve the needs of present and future students.

Instead, the proposed historic designation threatens to limit the project to a superficial “refresh” of an aging, inadequate structure. This would be a missed opportunity to provide our community with school that meets current educational standards and community needs. We find it troubling that historic preservation might be elevated to a priority in this instance in spite of the lack of compelling evidence for historic protection.

In its own literature, HPO acknowledges that the 1949 building was a product of its era’s financial constraints and does not exhibit exemplary architectural design. The

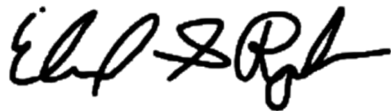
building neither exhibits distinctive architectural merit nor evokes a sense of pride in the community. Superior examples of the period's style exist elsewhere in the city and are already safeguarded, making the case for designating this school building even less compelling.

The shortcomings of the structure persist to this day, with outdated gym facilities, problematic classroom orientation leading to heat gain and traffic exposure, and entryways that present ongoing safety and accessibility challenges. Retaining these flaws under the guise of preservation makes little sense, especially with modern needs in mind. The existing structure has provided problematic support for community for the last 76 years, with numerous failures merely patched over through maintenance.

This rebuild offers hope for a community touchstone that will serve our children and grandchildren well for another 100 years. Preserving the core components of this structure would we set aside these hopes.

We urge you to reject the historic designation for Shirley Chisholm Elementary School and allow for full modernization. The children who attend this Title I school and their families deserve a facility that is safe, accessible, efficient, and inspiring for the next generation. Please support modernizing this facility.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Ryder".

Sincerely,

Edward Ryder

Chair, ANC 6B

CC:

Ward 6 Councilmember, Charles Allen
6B09 Commissioner and 6B Vice Chair, Karen Hughes
6B04 Commissioner, Brian Gorman
Nick Burger
Rachel Nadelman
Robin Broesch
Greg Ziel